A MAN for OTHERS IN MEDICINE

DR. DANIEL W. JOHNSON ’96
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year at Creighton Prep, our school theme is joy, and that includes the work that all of us do here to advance the mission to form men of faith, scholarship, leadership and service. Carrying out our work with joy is also one small way that we can take to heart Pope Francis’ words about how integral joy is to being a Christian.

My hope is that you will see the essence of joy coming through in many of the articles that comprise this issue of the Creighton Prep magazine. From the coverage on the life of Daniel W. Johnson ’96, the alumni that gather for reunions, the ToMorrow Labs progress and the Loyola Dinner honorees to the write-ups on other alumni servant leaders, Coach Pat Mooney and the baseball program, and Operation Others at 50, there is a common thread through all of it that joy is essential to success, especially in efforts to help and inspire others.

As we strive to keep building a community of joy for students, I am excited by the prospects of the comprehensive student support services program that will begin in July 2018 and that Principal Jim Bopp announced by email in November. The additions of a Director of College Counseling, a school psychologist and an Assistant Principal for Student Support Services will help strengthen our commitment to helping students succeed in the classroom, in the college admissions process and as young men on a journey that can be challenging in ways many of us may not have imagined long ago.

Even with those challenges, our students continue to perform exceedingly well in a wide variety of endeavors. For example, 18 seniors were recognized in September for outstanding academic achievement by the National Merit Scholarship Program, including eleven who were named Semifinalists—more than any other school in the state and an honor bestowed on about 1 percent of the 1.6 million students in the competition—and seven named Commended Students for also being among the 50,000 highest scorers on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

The following month, the great labor by Prep student journalists on the Jay Journal newspaper, the Jay Junior yearbook and CPTV was rewarded with seven honors announced at the fall convention of the Nebraska High School Press Association, and eleven Prep musicians were named All-State by the Nebraska Music Educators Association.

As we close 2017, please know that I am deeply grateful for the support you continue to give Prep. Having you with us, expressing joy in our mission through your gifts to the school, attending our events and telling the Prep story to others is essential to our success.

Sincerely,

Fr. Tom Neitzke, SJ
President
Creighton Preparatory School
A MAN FOR OTHERS IN MEDICINE

DR. DANIEL W. JOHNSON '96

THE PROFILE OF A PREP ALUMNUS WHO ROSE TO BE PART OF THE FIGHT AGAINST EBOLA

Typical of a Man for Others from Creighton Prep, upon meeting Dr. Daniel W. Johnson ‘96 for the interview that will form the basis of this profile, he was quick to downplay his many accomplishments in the service of those in need, including his role on the University of Nebraska Medical Center team in the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit that treated Ebola patients during the well-publicized 2014 outbreak in West Africa.

Growing up near Elmoood Park, the son of Will and Dede Johnson, he had little idea that becoming a sought-after expert on the treatment of a highly infectious pathogen would be an important part of his future. Back in early 90s, he was focused primarily on school and athletics. “I loved sports and played a part in their experiences,” noted Dan. “In grade school, I used to walk from my house up to the UNO football field on Friday nights to watch Prep’s home football games. I just knew I would go to Prep.”

At Prep, Dan played with intensity through the initial practices of the Freshman A team in August of 1992, so much so that his teammates noticed him spitting blood after every collision. “What they didn’t know was why I was spitting blood,” said Dan. “At age six, I had been diagnosed with a large arteriovenous malformation (AVM) of the face and had more than twenty operations to keep it in check. AVM is a condition that allows blood vessels to enlarge abnormally and because of higher-than-normal pressures in those vessels, it put me at risk for bleeding. I had been able to play sports at SMM without too much trouble, but the bigger hits in 9th grade meant I was bleeding pretty regularly.”

After the bleeding continued through several more Prep practices, it was clear that the AVM was going to keep affecting his athletic endeavors in a significant way. Dan then had to make a difficult decision just before the Freshman A team’s first game. “I told Coach (Mike) Culver, my parents and my friends that I had decided to stop playing football. Since football was the only sport that I was pretty good at, I knew that I would have to find a new passion beyond athletics.”

That new passion centered on serving others. He was elected class vice president on the Student Council during his freshman, sophomore and junior years, and he would be the student body vice president in his senior year. He was in a Christian Life Community, and he served as a retreat leader for Freshman Retreat and Junior Encounter. But his favorite activity, by far, was Operation Others, where he was in the O.O. Core Group for two years. During the fall 1994 campaign for Operation Others, Prep students raised approximately $20,000 to help feed 1,050 families, the highest total ever raised for O.O. by the students. The following year, according to the 1996 Jay Junior, “a record 1,100 families were served” from the delivery center at St. Ann’s Parish social hall. It was also during his work for Operation Others that he met his future wife Rachel who was helping on the project as a Marian High School student.

The experience of Operation Others under the direction of faculty moderator and theology teacher William A. Laird ‘66 was profound for Dan. “Inside and outside the classroom, Mr. Laird taught me that all human beings have immense dignity,” he said. “He also taught me and a lot of Prep students that it is our duty to seek out opportunities to help the less fortunate in any way we can.” When asked about Dan’s time in Operation Others and at Prep, Bill was equally complimentary. “There are not many students whose love of others, of learning, of justice, and of life in general serves to inspire teachers as much as Dan’s did back then.”

“THERE ARE NOT MANY STUDENTS WHOSE LOVE OF OTHERS, OF LEARNING, OF JUSTICE, AND OF LIFE IN GENERAL SERVES TO INSPIRE TEACHERS AS MUCH AS DAN’S DID BACK THEN.”

– WILLIAM A. LAIRD ’66

As he finished his time at BC, Dan found himself at a crossroads. His relationship with Rachel had grown steadily and they were seeing each other as much as they could while she was in school at Loyola University Chicago. He decided to do a year of service, working an assignment in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps at the Kansas City Free Health Clinic. During that year, he saw a wide range of patients and cases and, as he cared for them taking vital and drawing blood, his vision for medical school became clear. Dan recalled, “It was one of the best years of my life, living with three wonderful people while all of us did full-time volunteer work.”

“Her was such a great teacher that my original career plan was to be a biology teacher at Prep so I could be just like her,” remarked Dan of Mrs. Beckmann. “I do a lot of teaching with medical students, residents and fellows now, and I regard Mrs. Beckmann as one of my all-time best role models for teaching.” His academic advisor Fr. Sinnerud pushed Dan to become a more disciplined student and, when it came time to choose a college, he challenged him to look beyond the list of schools he had originally developed to opportunities further across the United States, helping him eventually decide to attend Boston College.

Over the course of the next four years as a biology major at BC—years that Dan remembered as the most academically challenging of his life—he flourished. Even with trying to constantly figure out “the right balance between studying for multiple courses and writing papers” as final exams drew near, Dan still made time for volunteer work and fun. He volunteered weekly at a soup kitchen in downtown Boston, co-founded the school’s Habitat for Humanity chapter and enjoyed the camaraderie of his roommates, most of whom played varsity football and were also from the Midwest.

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He went to the University of Michigan for medical school, where he decided that he would specialize in Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine. Combining these two specialties is quite common in Europe but slightly less common in the United States. After graduating from Michigan, he did a yearlong internship in Internal Medicine at UNMC and married Rachel before they packed a small moving truck for Boston, where he would do his residency training in Anesthesiology at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and a subsequent fellowship in Critical Care Medicine.

“I was also fortunate to be on the Anesthesiology and Critical Care faculty at Harvard Medical School for three years after my training,” said Dan. “Rachel and I really enjoyed living in Boston. We spent a lot of time with my sister Emily and her husband Jonny, who continue to live in Massachusetts. Rachel and I went on several memorable vacations to Maine while we lived there.”

While he was a faculty member at MGH, he met UNMC Anesthesiology Department Chairman Dr. Steven Lisco at a medical conference, and learned that Dr. Lisco had a keen interest in building a new Critical Care Division within the Department. Dan was offered a faculty position at UNMC, and the timing was right, as he and Rachel had always pictured raising a family in Omaha. Children Leah and Sam were part of the Johnson family at that point, so the couple was excited to enjoy the company of relatives and old friends when they returned to Omaha in 2013.

Fast forward to the fall of 2014 when the Ebola outbreak in West Africa was front page news. With Emory University Hospital in Atlanta and UNMC two of the most prepared facilities in the United States to treat highly hazardous infectious diseases, medical teams at both hospitals were formed and communications were enabled with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the U.S. Department of State. Patients were then transported first to Emory in August of that year and to UNMC in September.

Early on in the mobilization effort, Dan received a call from his colleagues in the Department of Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases Division to join the team that would be called on to treat the patients flown in for lifesaving treatment. “You had to agree to volunteer to work in the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit (NBU). When we were asked, every physician in the Department of Anesthesiology said they were willing to take care of patients in the NBU. I was really proud of the Critical Care colleagues in our new Division,” said Dan.

The next few months were a blur of activity as the team cared for a doctor from Liberia for 21 days before he was discharged, a journalist who stayed at the hospital for 17 days before he left much better and, later, another doctor, who was so critically ill when he arrived that, despite the team’s best efforts, he couldn’t be saved.

In reflecting recently on the experience, Dan noted, “These were three very distinct cases so it was an enormous learning experience for all of us on the team, not only in terms of how to treat a disease like Ebola but in how to prepare for an outbreak like this with other caregivers in the United States and around the world. We were constantly in touch with people at Emory, New York University, CDC, the World Health Organization and even hospitals in Europe, exchanging information on what was working, what wasn’t and what we could do to help each other. Seeing all of these teams actively helping one another was inspiring.”

His work in the Biocontainment Unit also hit home in a very personal way. “During that time, our daughter developed a fever of 105 degrees,” said Dan. “I knew I had taken all the necessary precautions to keep myself and my family safe from Ebola exposure. Just the same, I was extremely stressed when my daughter developed a high fever. As we expected, her fever turned out to be a typical preschool illness, but that was a difficult time for our family.”

Since then, Dan and his colleagues at UNMC, at Emory and other organizations involved in the treatment of Ebola patients in 2014 have remained busy sharing what they’ve learned through the publication of approximately 200 academic papers and the presentation of over 100 lectures. “I can’t overstate the importance of the collaboration that took place between UNMC, Emory and other institutions that helped these patients survive,” remarked Dan. “I get the chance every day to work with some of the most skilled and courageous people you will meet anywhere and, without them, it just wouldn’t have gone so smoothly.”

In order to balance his clinical duties in the intensive care unit and operating rooms with his administrative duties as the Division Chief and Fellowship Director for Critical Care, Dan’s days often begin at 5 a.m. Work at the hospital is a fairly nonstop stream of caring for patients, lecturing students and residents, and working on clinical research projects. While he enjoys his career, Dan says his favorite part of the day is when he arrives home in the evening “to my three kids yelling ‘Daddy!’ and hugging me as they tell me about their day.”

Dan says that seeing a very ill patient pull through or a young faculty member whom he taught spring into action to save a life are great moments, yet his family remains his greatest source of joy and accomplishment. “I am most proud of marrying my wonderful wife Rachel and of my wonderful daughter Leah and sons Sam and William,” said Dan.

Among the many credentials displayed proudly in his office is his Creighton Prep diploma. What would he say to today’s Junior Jays if he could? “Even though you might have some rough days at Prep, please realize that millions of people all over the Earth would love to trade places with you and receive a Creighton Prep education. Make the most of your time there. If you put in your best effort, Prep will get you ready to succeed in college and beyond.”

ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM STUDYING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Each year, the Academic Decathlon (AD) team at Creighton Prep studies a different topic through ten different lenses—literature, art, music, math, science, economics, history, speech, interview and essay—and uses that knowledge in competitions with other high school AD teams.

This year’s topic is Africa, and the focus of the science section is the infectious diseases of Ebola, HIV and malaria. As part of their preparation for competition, Prep students are studying the advancements that have been made in combating these diseases and the ways that certain ones have evaded attempts at control. Also included in their studies is an introduction to the basic biology behind infectious diseases as well as information on how the human body fights infection and how vaccines work.

Creighton Prep would like to thank Dr. Dan Johnson ’96 for visiting as a guest lecturer in the Academic Decathlon class during the fall semester and for his role in getting the Prep students a tour of the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit at UNMC.
REUNIONS AT PREP
RECONNECTING AND REMEMBERING IN 2017
TOWARD ONE REUNION WEEKEND IN 2018

Each year, scores of Creighton Prep alumni return to the 74th and Western Avenue campus to reconnect with classmates and remember together the experiences and people that helped shaped who they are today.

In 2017, it was another great set of summer and fall weekends for these special get-togethers, with the classes ending in 2 and 7 in the reunion spotlight.

The reunion year kicked off with an incredible jubilarian celebration by the Class of 1967. Following their 50th reunion in late May, the Classes of 1947, 1952, 1972 and 1977 celebrated their reunions.

After the hot months of July and August, the Classes of 1992, 1997, 2002 and 2007 celebrated as well then, just a month later, the Classes of 1957, 1962, 1982 and 1987 did the same.

Going forward, our plan is to consolidate all reunions into one BIG annual weekend celebration with multiple days and evenings of fun, service opportunities, Mass, hearing from former teachers and seeing the school! This format will give our alumni classes a date each year to plan for their reunion.

The goal is to bring the alumni community together to celebrate the many years those classes have represented Prep in so many great ways.

"The 50th Prep class reunion is one event not to miss! You may not recognize all your old buddies at first, but it doesn't matter. It is a great time to reconnect with old friends." - Richard "Dick" Kizer ’67

"Personally, 45 years of living life after walking the halls of Prep, hearing stories long forgotten and catching up with the guys was certainly refreshing and reinforced the outstanding foundation and experience of sharing those four years together." - Nicholas D. Gassman ’72

"Our reunion was a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and classmates. After 20 years, everyone seemed to pick up right where they left off. It was a really fun weekend." - Justin L. Shanahan ’97

"My class reunion was a great way to reconnect with old classmates. Not only was it fun reliving the memories of the time spent at Prep, but finding out more about what guys are up to these days, both personally and professionally." - Kevin J. Stratman ’07
In 1957 I was strapped into the harness of Jesuit education. It shaped my character, challenged my intellect and called me to seek God in all things. What seemed like so many clichés sixty years ago has today become the foundation of my personal and business life. It all began at Prep; not College, Law School or the Marine Corps. Prep is where my trail first turned up the hill. It is the trailhead that has shaped my life.

Today, as I evaluate where to spend my charity dollars, Creighton Prep has first claim for the largest piece. Prep continues to shape the young men who will shape the future. It gets them early, gives them the tool box and turns them up the trail to higher ground.” – Michael J. McDermott ‘61

“We give each year in memory of my mother Catherine and father Horton who worked so hard to ensure that my brother Robert ‘77 and I would be given the opportunity for an excellent education at Prep. A Prep education opened so many doors for me personally and professionally. My wife and I have given so that others might have the same opportunities.” – William P. Dahlquist ‘85

“We all donate to causes we believe in, and I give to Prep because I know my gifts will be spent wisely to build up these young men to go out and change the world. Giving breaks the power of money over our lives; it is truly a sacrifice and it should be used to improve the lives of others. I encourage all fellow alumni to reflect on the ways Prep contributed to their growth and development, and if possible, return that blessing.” – Derek S. Pirruccello ’00

The 2017-2018 AMDG Annual Fund campaign is underway and, as always, your support of the AMDG Annual Fund is critical to the success of our ongoing mission to form men of faith, scholarship, leadership and service.

Gifts to the AMDG Annual Fund help Prep provide financial assistance to students, address a range of operating expenses, support the dining program and continue important work in a number of academic programs and activities as well as in Campus Ministry and the arts and sciences.

You have been receiving information regarding the 2017-2018 AMDG Annual Fund campaign through mail, email and phone calls. During this time, please consider returning a gift or a multi-year pledge by mail or donating online at www.creightonprep.org/giveonline. Your generosity makes all the difference in helping form 1,000 Men for Others each year.

You may even be able to double the impact of your gift to Prep by participating in your company’s matching gift program. See your human resource office for information regarding matching gifts.

For additional information or to discuss a gift or multi-year pledge to the AMDG Annual Fund, please contact Director of Annual Funds Taylor Stormberg ‘09 at 402-548-3830 or tstor@prep.creighton.edu.
has been meeting with faculty from various departments to discuss opportunities for integrating it into their curriculum. Those discussions have already resulted in some interesting student work.

"From World Language students who are developing clocks to show their understanding of how Spanish speakers tell time to the 3D printing of three dimensional graphs for calculus to English department students researching sustainable design, excitement and curiosity is beginning to take shape across the curricula," she said.

Computer science students doing independent study this fall have also been working diligently to help create student user manuals for the machines, and they have developed a help desk housed in the space. Other new users of ToMorrow Labs are the Prep robotics teams that have been building 120-lb. "bots" for FIRST Robotics Competitions (FRC) slated to take place from early January through most of February, followed by regionals in March in Kansas City.

"Participating students are building robots of greater caliber and, in the process, are getting exposed to more complex engineering concepts," noted Candace. "They will also travel to compete in the hopes of helping to launch a strong FRC program in Omaha."

To that end, she is looking for electrical, mechanical and computer engineers to volunteer to work with and mentor students. Interested parties can contact her at Prep via email at cthom@prep.creighton.edu. "Creating working relationships for the students offers them an opportunity to learn more about the various engineering disciplines and the skill sets that are vital to designing, building and programming robots."

On September 6, members of the Creighton Prep Board of Trustees and the Council of Regents toured ToMorrow Labs to get an update on what’s been happening in the space along with the plans that are being discussed for its future use. "Now that we’re in the launch phase and there’s still plenty of fundraising to do to reach our goal, communicating the progress on ToMorrow Labs is a high priority," said Rick Berger ’76, Vice President of Advancement.

Stay tuned for future communications from Prep regarding workshops and camps that are in the early planning stages for the spring and summer of 2018.
The story of how Director of Campus Ministry and Service Coordinator David A. Lawler ’95 and his brother and theology teacher Paul F. Lawler ’01 returned to Prep to embrace careers defined by service is also the story of their role models in faith, their experiences at Prep and their volunteer work after college that shaped not only their career choices but who they are today as role models themselves.

Both fondly recalled the influence of their parents, Mike and Suzie Lawler, as well as both sets of grandparents, Francis and Ellen Lawler of Westside, Iowa along with Oliver and Shirley Smith of Leavenworth, Kansas, as pivotal to their early faith development. “We never missed Mass on Sundays as a family,” said Paul. “And you can still find my parents at daily Mass at St. Robert’s,” noted Dave.

At Prep, both were strongly influenced by their experiences of great teachers and their participation in Campus Ministry activities that helped develop their faith and notions about how they wanted to live. “I think my faith grew by leaps and bounds,” said Dave of his time as a Prep student. “It was neat to see your peers leading retreats and planning liturgies. Plus, I had wonderful role models like (theology teachers) Jim Swanson (’82), Bill Laird (’66) and Tom Hoover (’81). To have male role models who were living lives of faith and service had a great influence on me as you don’t always see this in the broader culture.”

Both Dave and Paul also remarked on their participation in Christian Life Community (CLC) groups, retreats and Awareness Workshop as key to directing them to where they are now. In fact, both can still remember the names of the students they worked with during their Awareness Workshop service commitments to JP Lord School and Madonna School, respectively. Both also participated in World Youth Day 2017 in Krakow, Poland. “However, what I am most thankful for because of Paul Lawler was his persistence in starting a CLC group with me and a handful of my friends. Gathering once a week to reflect on our lives together was a blessing I will truly never forget … I have considered that being a Theology teacher at Prep would be something I would maybe like to do one day.”

At Prep, Dave and Paul get the opportunity to work on several projects together, including Operation Others alongside Jerry Kinney ’95. The brothers have also had the opportunity to lead together on a service trip to the Rosebud Reservation in 2015 and will help lead a group in the March for Life 2018 in Washington, D.C.
In the first year of playing in what is arguably now the finest high school baseball stadium in Nebraska at Jurgensen Park, the Five Points Bank Senior American Legion team of Creighton Prep players put together one of the best seasons ever in the state. The team finished with a 58-7 record and in second place in the American Legion World Series in Shelby, North Carolina—and this after a spring season in which they won the program’s 14th Class A state championship and the school’s sixth since 2001.

At the helm for all six of those state titles as well as appearances in the American Legion World Series in 2001, 2012, 2016 and 2017 has been head coach Pat Mooney, one of the most accomplished high school coaches in the country. When asked recently about the reasons for his success, he praised the coaching example set by his father, the hard-working assistant and the character of his players.

“I grew up in Hutchinson, Minnesota, about an hour west of Minneapolis,” said Pat in a recent interview. “And in a family where my father’s three basics for baseball and everything else were patience, execution and discipline.” David Mooney had excelled as a baseball player at St. Cloud State University. As a teacher and future Chicago Cubs General Manager Jim Hendry telling me that I needed to start thinking about playing third base because the team needed someone the next Tuesday. So I drove home that weekend, got there about ten o’clock at night and said, ‘Dad, we need to go out to the field. You need to hit me some ground balls and here’s why.’ So he hit me an hour and a half of ground balls.”

With those ground balls, of course, came thoughtful discussion on how best to play the position and another example of the coach he could become. After graduating in 1990 from Creighton, he accepted student teaching assignments in the Omaha Public Schools and at Prep. After Pat’s first class at CP, head coach Mike Culver approached him and asked if he wanted to coach baseball at the school. Pat did, and he began as Mike’s assistant with the varsity team and as the head coach of the JV American Legion team.

After teaching in OPS for five years, he returned to teach at Prep in 1995 then, after the spring of 1999, took over for Mike as head coach of the varsity and Senior American Legion teams. That same year, PI Midwest President and Owner Lawrence B. Good ’69 (also the 2017 Alumnus of the Year) approached the school about sponsoring the American Legion team, and, from there, the success of the baseball program rose to another level.

Fond memories for Pat of those early years as Prep’s head coach include the walk-off home run by senior James W. Hinrichs ’01 that helped Prep win the Class A state title in 2001 and taking his one-year-old son PJ (now a junior at the school) to witness the PI Midwest team reach the final four of the American Legion World Series in Yakima, Washington later that same year.

He also remembered the leadership of the 2001 squad’s six seniors: George A. Cleary ’01, Jonathan B. Gorden ’01, James W. Hinrichs ’01, Steven M. Larson ’01, Nicholas M. Nemanen ’01 and Joseph F. Piette ’01—and recalled that in the 2001 ALWS, in the regional final in 2002 and again in the ALWS in 2012, the PI Midwest team lost to opponents who eventually became the national champions.

In 2016, the second year of a new sponsorship by Five Points Bank of Omaha, the team won the Bismarck, North Dakota regional tournament and finished in the ALWS in Shelby, North Carolina with a record of 9-5. Then, in 2017, they completed another stellar season, going undefeated in regional play in Dickinson, North Dakota (in a seventh straight appearance at regionals) and reaching the national final.

By the time the season was over on August 15, the Five Points Bank team had secured its place in Prep American Legion baseball history as perhaps the most storied group after the 1939 Omaha McDevitts squad that won the national title in Omaha.

According to Pat, a key to the program’s recent successes has been the work of his assistants: Jerry M. Wellwood ’95 (pitching), Mychal Lanik (hitting and infielders) and Josh Schlortfeld (base running and outfielders). “Jerry tells me who he wants to pitch, and I always ask Mychal who we should have and what kind of order we have, and I always ask Josh who can run or who can bunt,” said Pat.

He also mentioned that, this year, having the new field in Jurgensen Park was especially helpful and not only in the hours saved before and after each game to keep the former grass field playable. “I don’t think we win the spring, even though we struggled, and we were 23 and 12. Because we got to go outside right away and practice,” he remarked. “If you have the whole team returning, the field can wait. We had everybody brand new, and we got to go out, we got to hit ‘em flies, we got to run the bases and teach them. The group of guys we had this year were the most absorbent learners that we’ve ever had.”

“Mooney and Lanik and Schlortfeld and Wellwood are just absolutely phenomenal...They just mesh perfectly together,” said Zachary R. Luckey ’16 who returned with former Prep teammates Dane Parker Hansen ’16 and Lucas Anthony Rigo ’16 to play this past summer. “With addition of the three ‘Legion babies,’ they brought in some leadership that really helped us accomplish what we had set out to do and more,” remarked pitcher and Kansas State recruit Dylan Michael Phillips ’18.

Of that special team in the 2017 ALWS, Pat also remembered the group praying in front of the dugout after learning that the father of the pitching coach on the team from Midland, Michigan Post 365 had passed away. “I just told their head coach, ‘We are going to pray for your coach, your families, your community and we’re going to say a couple of prayers for you,’” said Pat.

The many accomplishments of the Five Points Bank American Legion team have not gone unnoticed by its sponsoring organization either.

“I couldn’t be more proud for the bank to sponsor this team,” said Five Points Bank Chairman and CEO Thomas O’Kelley ’94, who also serves on the Creighton Prep Board of Trustees. “Larry Good was kind enough to pass the torch from PI Midwest to Five Points Bank a few years back, and it has been an incredible run with two state championships, two regional championships and a national finalist team in the three years that Five Points Bank has been the sponsor.”

All of the credit goes to the dedicated players and incredible coaching staff led by Coach Mooney.”

BUILDING EXCELLENCE

COACH PAT MOONEY AND THE JOURNEY TO THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BASEBALL GAME

FALL 2017       17  16     CREIGHTON PREP
Living a life of LEADERSHIP

Donald W. Kleine ‘70

Douglas County Attorney Donald W. Kleine ‘70 has a lot on his plate. With 59 lawyers and 50 support staff in his charge, no day is “typical” in managing such a large group and prosecuting an extensive list of felony and misdemeanor crimes, child safety cases, domestic violence incidents, juvenile crimes and civil matters.

Those non-typical days can stretch into the 18- or 24-hour variety as well. For example, the night before his interview with the Creighton Prep magazine, he was awakened at 3:30 a.m. by a call about a case that had developed a bit earlier that night, and that was followed by more information on a 4:30 a.m. crime that would likely need to be handled by him and the people in his office.

Though many Omahans know him as the county’s chief attorney who occasionally comments in the media on the more sensational cases, as he nears the end of his third term, what he’s most proud of are the efforts that tend to go more unnoticed by the public. More specifically, what he and his departmental colleagues do to comfort the family members of the defendant with the value of their loved one’s life. I tell them, ‘If we could do justice, we’d bring your loved ones back to us. We’re going to do the best we can to bring them back to you.’

With such a large number of attorneys working under his tutelage and an already impressive record of accomplishment, people ask him why he still tries cases. “I think it’s important as a leader, kind of the Prep manner, that you set an example,” noted Don. “That I show them how to do things the right way, ethically and responsibly.”

“Don is a top shelf trial attorney who takes on the highest profile cases in the best interest of Douglas County/Omaha,” remarked Omaha Police Department Chief of Police Todd Schmaderer. “I value his opinion greatly and the Omaha area is fortunate to have the highest legal matters in his hands.”

Don’s best memories of Prep include Jesuits like Fr. Bill O’Leary—“the kindest, gentlest, nicest human being I’ve probably ever been around”—and the network of former Junior Jays still operating in his life. Many are colleagues such the Hon. J. Michael Coffey ’65 and the Hon. Gregory M. Schatz ’65 or attorneys and staff members in his employ. “When you talk about Prep, it’s that connection, it’s the experience that you went through, that all of us went through. It doesn’t matter what year you graduated.”

He also recalled with pride watching his sons (now attorneys themselves) Donald J. Kleine ‘94 and Philip K. Kleine ‘99 graduate from Prep, and he is honored to be serving on the Board of Trustees. “It’s amazing,” he said. “The place is a little bit different than when I went there. It’s unbelievable.”

Living a life of SERVICE

David R. Kirchofer ’85

Current parent and alumnus David R. Kirchofer ’85 readily admits that his freshman year at Creighton Prep wasn’t the easiest time in his life.

Growing up in the St. Thomas More parish on the south side of Omaha, he thought it would be either Omaha South or Gross Catholic for high school but, when his friend and classmate Peter J. Budchuk ’85 decided he wanted to attend Prep, Dave took the entrance exam at the school. That fall, he took notice of the great teachers and the fellowship developing in his class. But soon his grades were suffering. “I was lucky I didn’t get kicked out,” he said. “I loved Prep but the classroom did not love me.”

Fortunately, with the support of instructors like algebra teacher (and future Creighton Prep Hall of Fame member) Eugene M. Dutkiewicz, SJ, whom he credits for keeping him at Prep, Dave’s grades rebounded by the end of May. During that year, he also experienced Freshman Retreat and enjoyed it so much that he volunteered to help with it the next three years.

Amazingly, he hasn’t missed helping with Freshman Retreat since then, even through his college years at Creighton University when he also worked as an athletic trainer at CP. “After I got out of Prep my senior year, I wanted to stay involved because of all the good characters and teachers,” noted Dave. “It’s almost like a debt you want to pay back your whole life.”

Today, he serves as an assistant to longtime Freshman Retreat Director Gregory J. Glenn ’70, who has become one of his closest friends and with whom he has coached the Freshman B football team for the past 26 years.

After graduating from Creighton in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts degree from a dual major in Organizational Communications and History, Dave went on to jobs at Boys Town and the Richard Young Center before answering the call that had been in his heart to become a fireman. He began in 1995 with the Millard Fire Department, which merged with the Omaha Fire Department a few years later, and he is now a captain at a station near his old neighborhood.

“For me, it is the ultimate way to help people, and the driving force was to be part of a family. I never had brothers and sisters so, when I found that camaraderie, I said, ‘This is the best. It’s kind of like Creighton Prep but as a job.’” The following year, he met the love of his life, Mary. They were married in 1997 and have three children including son Danny who is a Prep senior.

As a firefighter, he has worked in a variety of roles and seen lots of tragedy and heroism. During Hurricane Harvey, Dave traveled to Houston as a member of Nebraska Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue to join many thousands of other first responders in getting area residents to safety. After teammates pulled people from houses and apartment buildings and returned them to the rescue area, Dave decontaminated the suits worn by rescuers and ferried residents to buses that would transport them to shelters.

The feeling of satisfaction in a job well done is one he won’t soon forget from his days in Houston. “Being able to help someone else when they are in need is a cornerstone of what we do and it always has been. And you don’t have to be seen doing it. When the affirmation starts to come from within, that’s when you’re the happiest.”
To Spanish teacher and current program moderator Jerry Kinney ’95, it is the engagement with the food recipients that is the key to the power of Operation Others. “Communicating with people, just right to them, not reading in the newspaper, hearing directly from them what it means to them or doesn’t mean to them. What their Christmas will be like or won’t be like. That interaction is the cornerstone of the program.”

Also important to Jerry is to convey to the Operation Others Core Team members—the program ambassadors from the eight area Catholic high schools involved—what the program cannot do.

“After Call-in Day (typically in early November, when Core Team members take calls from those in need, requesting food assistance the following month), I usually play a voicemail or two from a family that maybe wasn’t able to get through … and students recognize from that, ‘Oh my gosh, what we provide is great but the need is greater than this.’”

To make the interaction with recipients more personal, Core Team members and area grade school students have been enlisted in recent years to make Christmas cards for the over 2,000 food boxes that are part of delivery weekends now. New for 2017 is an incentive to pack the food in reusable bags that each volunteer fills separately by walking through an assembly line of food station helpers to get needed items. “Hopefully, that setup will allow for more relationships to form, more community to form in the warehouse,” said Jerry. “Then also on the flip side, the thing that the family receives will look less industrial.”

Jerry’s Creighton Prep classmate, Director of Campus Ministry and Service Coordinator David A. Lawler ’95, manages the database of families signed up to receive food, and sees personal interaction as fundamental to the program’s success as well. “What I love about Operation Others is the opportunity it provides for an encounter … The opportunity to deliver food to a family’s home gives me the chance to see the face of Christ in those whom I serve.”

As you might imagine, that encounter, while still powerful in a very similar way, was a bit more complex near the beginning of the program’s inception when Core Team members like William G. Hanlik ’70 were working without the technology in use now to speed the signup and delivery processes. “I remember going up and knocking on doors, telling people we were from Operation Others at Creighton Prep, and we would have to sell people on the fact that we were giving them food,” said Bill.

Duchesne Academy college counselor Frances Swanson, who is the program moderator there today, touched on the unique aspect of high school experience, and O.O. provides so many opportunities for creating lasting memories,” she said.

“Students, in the course of their formation, must let the gritty reality of this world into their lives, so they can learn to feel it, think about it critically, respond to its suffering, and engage it constructively.” – Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, former Superior General of the Society of Jesus (October 2000)

While a student at Duchesne, Core Team member Emma Bonebrake introduced current Prep parents Katie and Bob Bonebrake to Operation Others and to sister Abby who also went on to be part of the Core Team. Later, brother Ben ’16 focused on service opportunities like Operation Others while at Prep. “It provided a huge opportunity for our children to grow personally, to blossom, to grow in their love of Jesus and to learn about true leadership,” remarked Bob.

That echo of joy from volunteering in Operation Others is one that has reverberated through many other families as well. Longtime volunteer Jeff Coe was invited to help in the program about 20 years ago through friends in the Knights of Columbus organization. “Upon arriving at the warehouse, I was amazed at the student participation and the families that were so intent on delivering mounds of food to the less fortunate. I was hooked,” he noted. “I started inviting fellow Knights, friends, family, everyone I knew to help participate. It became an annual event that I looked forward to each year.”

After working in the warehouse in a number of roles, Jeff and his family now deliver food each year to the residents in need at the Seven Oaks of Florence property managed by the Sisters of Notre Dame through Notre Dame Housing. “I have been blessed to have been delivering to this location for 15 years,” he recounted. “My oldest daughter Jennifer comes to town every year for this weekend, just to deliver to these families … There has never been a weekend she did not make it in. Weather could not keep her away. Now she brings her husband and has invited her closest friends to share this mission one day a year.”

In addition to having Jennifer’s help for the past 17 years, daughter Shannon, who started helping at age three, recently graduated from Duchesne and has volunteered in Operation Others for 15 years.

Word continues to spread elsewhere as well, attracting new volunteers to the program. “One of the first things that struck me was the interest that our students had in participating,” said Mount Michael Benedictine theology teacher Amy Masek about the school’s first year as part of the cluster of Catholic high schools sponsoring the program. “They were familiar with the group because of other friends and family members who attended other schools. Even among the entering freshman class at Prep this year, many replied to a 2017 survey about clubs and activities expressing interest in helping with Operation Others.

“He who goes about to reform the world must begin with himself, or he loses his labors.” – St. Ignatius Loyola

Would you like to experience the power of serving others through Operation Others? If so, please contact Jerry Kinney at Prep at jkinney@creightonprep.edu then follow all the latest on Operation Others at www.creightonprep.org/oo and on Twitter at https://twitter.com/OperationOthers.
HOW THE SCRIPT CAME TOGETHER FOR THE MAJOR MOTION PICTURE BY C. ALEXANDER PAYNE ’79 THAT WAS FILMED PARTLY AT CREIGHTON PREP

Award-winning director and screenwriter C. Alexander Payne ’79 and Paramount Pictures are releasing his latest film “Downsizing” to American audiences on December 22, 2017, a week that was filmed partly in Omaha during the spring of last year and, for a portion of an afternoon, at Creighton Prep.

“Downsizing” is the story of an Omaha couple named Paul and Audrey Safranek (played by Matt Damon and Kristen Wiig) who decide to reduce their footprint on the planet quite literally by shrinking themselves to five inches tall through a process developed in Norway. It is another critically-acclaimed addition to Alexander’s already impressive body of work that includes “Citizen Ruth,” “Election,” “About Schmidt,” “Sideways,” “The Descendants” and “Nebraska.” The film was even chosen to open the prestigious Venice Film Festival in late August, where it received strong reviews.

The film was even chosen to open the prestigious Venice Film Festival in late August, where it received strong reviews.

Though incorporating special effects was a departure for the filmmaker, a key goal for the film—to make the story as personal as he could—was one that’s been a constant throughout his career. “All humans around the world want something dramatically interesting. Eventually one of us sits down and sketches out a few pages then re-write together. We proceed like this, chiseling and chiseling until we finally have a first draft.” He also remarked that, with “Downsizing,” the process took years since “the idea kept triggering too many chain reactions of ideas, and we had to constantly decide where to break the ideas off.”

How does the co-writing process work that has produced such gems as “Citizen Ruth,” “Election,” “About Schmidt” and “Sideways”? Alexander noted, “In the case of Jim and me, we are always together in a room and talk for hours or days about what might happen next, trying to make each other laugh or propose something dramatically interesting. Eventually one

1950s
Jean and Robert E. Dahlquist ’51 of Benson, Arizona celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 8, 2017.

1960s
Dr. Carl Holtfrerich ’60 of Berlin, Germany celebrated his 75th birthday on January 23, 2017. His two children surprised him with a wonderful, large framed photo of their families that he is proud to share with his Prep Friends.

Frank S. O’Neal ’66 continues to offer surrealistic poetry performances and did so at OutSpaces in Omaha in September. He was also recently featured on the website of the 75 North Project which is committed to “creating healthy, sustainable, mixed-income communities in the Highlander neighborhood” where Frank makes his home.

John K. Green ’67 stepped down as a director of the Omaha Public Power District after 30 years of service (in five six-year terms). He continues to practice law in Omaha.

Daniel K. Powers ’67 keeps busy in retirement in Lincoln, Nebraska, playing internet duplicate bridge, reading Michael Connelly books and thinking about writing his memoirs. This follows a career that included the practice of law and many years working with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. After receiving a Bachelor of General Studies degree in 1971 from the University of Nebraska Omaha, Daniel spent six weeks in the Peace Corps in the Marshall Islands. He returned to Nebraska where he earned a law degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1976. He has one daughter, also an attorney, and three grandchildren.

Robert K. Carter Jr. ’68 of Orem, Utah has been married for 43 years to Geri. They have five children and 13 grandchildren.

1970s
Robert E. Dahlquist ’51 was recently inducted in the Hall of Fame at Liberty High School in Liberty, Missouri for his efforts coaching basketball and serving as an administrator at the school. The C. W. Stessman Invitational is named in his honor along with Liberty High School’s television studio.

1980s
L. Hindelang, SJ ’25, a 1982 Creighton Prep Hall of Fame inductee who was well known for demanding excellence in the classroom. Even with the great challenges put forward by Fr. Hindelang during those years, the value of the classroom was clear. “None of us would have traded it for the world,” he observed.

For the Prep students of today interested in a career in the arts, Alexander also has some sage advice, especially for those who want to live a life without regrets to look back on: “Spend your youth, your fleeting youth, bursting with desire, curiosity and creativity, to pursue what you really want.”
Kevin B. Linehan ’72 retired after forty years as an entrepreneur involved in manufacturing, distributing and retailing in the paint and coating industry and eleven years as a government employee in electronic administration. He now spends most of his time in Summit County Colorado while making frequent trips to Nebraska to visit his grandchildren. Kevin notes that he and Scott C. Petti ’72, who lived near each other while students at Prep, now live relatively close to one another in Colorado with Scott in Glenwood Springs.

M. Gregory “Greg” Mollner ’72 is president and founder of Vinton Street Partners, a boutique investment banking firm in Seattle, Washington that this year celebrates its 15th year in business. He is also Chairman of the Board for the Seattle Theatre Group, the largest performing arts group in the Northwest with over 600 performances a year at three historic theaters in Seattle. Greg and his wife Allison, who serves as president of the Brain Injury Alliance of Washington, have three daughters that are all enjoying professional careers, with two residing in Seattle and one in New York City.

James J. Frost ’74, an attorney with McGrath North, has been named a member of the Nebraska State Bar Foundation 2017 Class of Fellows. According to the Foundation’s website, members are selected on the basis of criteria that includes, among other items, “integrity and character,” their dedication to “improving the administration of justice” and that they are recognized as leaders in the profession by their colleagues.

James M. Connor ’78 is busy with acting in Los Angeles. He is in his fourth year of playing the popular Larry Culpepper character in Dr. Pepper commercials that run during the college football season, and he performs the role of high school head football coach on the show “Vice Principals.”

Kevin G. Homik ’70 launched a new business venture, Tuk Tuk, in Naperville, Illinois. Tuk Tuk offers an alternative transportation method for those that live in downtown Naperville. The all-electric vehicle has three wheels and can carry up to six passengers for a fun and short ride around downtown or from nearby residences to downtown and back.

Steven F. Dalhoff ’72 writes of the recent challenges faced in Houston as a result of Hurricane Harvey. When his parish of St. Ignatius Loyola in Spring, Texas was flooded, he and the members of his Knights of Columbus Council 10861 prepared a spaghetti meal for 300-400 volunteers and victims. He proudly wrote a Creghton Prep apron while serving the meals. Steve also just completed 30 years as a high school catechist and now leads his parish mission committee that works to support teachers’ salaries for Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Chiché, Guatemala. He has accompanied the mission team on five visits to Guatemala and has taught in the classroom there. Steve is grateful to Prep for instilling in him the desire to be a “person for others.” An accountant by profession, he is often asked why he does all of this service, to which he responds, “It’s the Jesuit in me.”

William D. Havworth ’72 worked as a petroleum geologist for Chevron in the Gulf Coast area for 35 years, retiring in 2015 as a senior staff geologist. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in geology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a master’s degree in geology from the University of Wyoming. Bill remains active as alector at Mass and volunteers at the Northshore Food Bank in the New Orleans area and at nearby Saint Joseph Abbey. He recently completed a term on the New Orleans Geological Society Board of Directors. Bill and his wife Renee live north of New Orleans and enjoy traveling in their RV. They are also grandparents to newly born identical twin girls.

Kevin D. Munro ’81 is Omaha market president at Frontier Bank Nebraska, having joined the organization in February 2017 after serving as managing director at BMO Harris Bank for over four years. Prior to BMO Harris, he held the position of market president at U.S. Bank for thirteen years.

Mark C. Laughlin ’84, a partner in the law firm of Fraser Stryker PC LLO, helped coach the 2016-2017 Creghton Prep Mock Trial Team. The Mock Trial Blue Team made it to the Nebraska Mock Trial State Championships where it took the state title for the first time in Prep’s history. The team then continued on to nationals where it finished 36th.

James L. Soulesy ’89 is a tax partner in the accounting firm of Smit Johnson, providing accounting, tax and consulting services in the greater Omaha area.

Joseph E. Sopchik ’92 began his eleventh year at Securities America in La Vista, Nebraska and is currently working as a lead application developer/analyst. He and his wife Jenn also have one son, J.T. Joe also recently served as president of his neighborhood association, and remains active in the Knights of Columbus and in supporting his son’s participation in Cub Scouts.

Thomas O. Kelley ’94 has been appointed by the Omaha City Council to a five-year term on the Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority Board of Directors.

Matthew M. Kuhse ’94, a prosecutor with the City of Omaha Legal Department, has been named a member of the Nebraska State Bar Foundation 2017 Class of Fellows. According to the Foundation’s website, members are selected on the basis of criteria that includes, among other items, “integrity and character,” their dedication to “improving the administration of justice” and that they are recognized as leaders in the profession by their colleagues.

Joseph E. Sopchik ’92

Andrew J. D’Agosto ’95 is the Director of Operations for Panda Inc. which operates 12 Omaha area Arby’s franchised restaurants.

Mark A. Mendenhall ’95 has been named Senior Vice President and General Counsel at the Metropolitan Utilities District of Omaha effective November 1, 2017. Mark has been with M.U.D. since May 2013 and was unanimously chosen among five competitors for the position.

Benjamin A. Reynolds ’00 is Director, New Business Development at Sheppard’s Business Interiors.

Benjamin J. Burton ’04 has been promoted to tax director at Lutz, an Omaha firm that provides a broad range of services to clients including accounting, financial planning, recruiting, recruiting and information technology. He joined the firm in 2008 and specializes today in trust and estate compliance and while also providing income and state and local tax services to corporations, partnerships and individuals.

David P. Kennison ’05 has joined the law firm of Baird Holm LLP in Omaha where he works primarily in the area of employment litigation. David earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Marquette University and graduated magna cum laude from the Creghton University School of Law. While in law school, he received CALI Excellence for the Future awards in the

Benjamin J. Burton ’04

Michael J. Nuzzo ’95 has been recognized as the 2016 Interior Systems Apprentice of the Year. The annual award was given by the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters at the 11th Biannual Outstanding Apprentice Banquet held in October.

J.P. Raynor ’95 was selected as a 2016 “40 Under 40” award winner by the Midlands Business Journal. A brokerage partner with Investors Realty, the award recognizes J.P. for his work in commercial real estate, which includes being a multiple CoStar Power Broker Award recipient, as well as for his service to the community.

Brod A. Lauwersen ’96 has been named an associate principal at Omaha-based Key Professional Engineers, Inc. (KPE). He has undergraduate and master’s degrees in mechanical engineering and leads the firm’s forensic engineering department.

Dustin M. Heng ’97 recently opened Oscar’s Pizza & Wings Carry Out, a new “to go” restaurant that further expands Oscar’s Pizza & Sports Grille in west Omaha.

Sumit Mukherjee, M.D., M.P.H. ’97 recently returned to Omaha to join Methodist Physicians Clinic as the medical director for Thoracic Oncology. He earned his medical and Master in Public Health degrees from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and completed his training in Pulmonology and Critical Care at the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Nicholas J. Rasso ’99 has been celebrating 15 years since the opening of Master Deck Builders, LLC, a business committed to building high quality, long lasting decks for customers that include many Creghton Prep Graduates. He credits Prep for a lot of his success and is proud to have his son Dominic enrolled at the school.

Benjamin A. Reynolds ’00
areas of banking law, copyrights, trial practice and trusts.

Tom Q. Ravenstahl ’06 is an associate with Acclaro Valuation Advisors. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in accounting from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Master of Business Administration degree in finance and financial management services from the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

Joseph A. Bradley ’07 is the Coordinator of Strategic Communications at Fr. Tolton Catholic High School in Columbia, Missouri. He also serves as the head coach for the girls golf team, which captured the district championship in September. Joseph graduated from Creighton Prep golf coach, Scott M. Sibbelsen ’88, who offered pointers during his first year of coaching. Joe is also the founder and president of the Day Dreams Foundation, a nonprofit organization in Columbia that awards scholarships to low-income children so they can participate in extracurricular activities, and he is pursuing a Master in Nonprofit Management degree from the University of Missouri.

Joseph T. Donovan ’07 was recently promoted to tax manager at Lutz, an Omaha firm that provides a broad range of services at Christ the King Church in Omaha. John is currently the Board of Directors for the First Westroads Bank in Omaha. A member of

2010s

Connor J. Magee ’12 is working at Saint Benedict’s Preparatory School in Newark, New Jersey and enjoys mentoring the students at the school. He teaches a modern business course as well as swimming and hopes to start a water polo team in the near future. Like Creighton Prep, Connor says Saint Benedict’s makes itself a home for its students and has a strong community.

Avery D. Wann ’12 is a client administrator at Mercer Advisors, which offers family wealth services at its newest office in Omaha.

Matthew D. Jadlowski ’13 graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work degree this spring from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. He is a certified social worker in Nebraska and is working on his Master of Social Work degree at the University of Nebraska Omaha. Matthew is very excited to be back at Prep in the Alumni Volunteer Corps this year, along with Timothy Brooks and Ryan Lunn. He co-teaches Catholic Social Teaching and assists with student advocacy and outreach as well as the Loyola Scholars Program. He also helped coach the Freshman B football team.

Carlo D. Eby ’14 was recently elected president of the student body at the University of Nebraska Omaha where he follows Patrick O. Davlin ’13 in that role. While in office, he plans to focus on transparency and feedback. Carlo is a business student with three finance concentrations and a minor in political science.

If you have an update for the Here & There section of the Creighton Prep Alumni News, please contact Max Huerter at 402.548.3851 or mhuer@prep.creighton.edu.

Stay up to date with Prep. Get connected.

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PLEASE REMEMBER

MAY 1, 2017 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will.
All I have and call my own. Whatever I have or hold, you have given me.
I restore it all to you and surrender it wholly to be governed by your will.

MAY 1, 2017 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

St. Ignatius of Loyola
William A. Fitzgerald ’55

November 18, 1937 to September 1, 2017

One of Omaha’s most outstanding business and civic leaders and a proud alumnus of the Class of 1955, William A. Fitzgerald ’55 passed to eternal life on Friday, September 1 at the age of 79.

Bill arrived at Creighton Prep from Our Lady of Lourdes and participated in a range of activities including sodality all four years where he engaged in discussions about faith and life with other students. He was also an excellent tennis player in a Prep program renowned for its talent and a string of state titles under Jesuit head coach and Spanish teacher Fr. J.G. Auer, SJ.

While still a teenager, Bill began work at Commercial Savings and Loan Association with his father William F. Fitzgerald ’26. Bill’s grandfather James J. Fitzgerald helped found the original South Omaha Loan and Building back in 1887 as an Irish immigrant and became its first full-time employee as secretary in 1893.

Bill would go on to become president of the company in 1974, CEO and president in 1983 then chairman of the board in 1994, leading the company renamed four years earlier as Commercial Federal Bank through many changes in the financial services industry and, ultimately, to be positioned as a super-regional bank that served 13 states, millions of customers, and originated and serviced $16 billion in mortgage loans across all 50 states before being purchased by Bank of the West in 2005.

During a life guided by faith and helping others, Bill also found time to serve a number of Omaha area nonprofits including Creighton University as a longtime member of the Board of Trustees and Prep, where he served as BASH executive chairman for “The Sky is the Limit” fundraiser in 1972. He was also a Governing Board member from 1976 to 1980, a member of the Council of Regents, co-chaired Prep’s first campaign to benefit the endowment and was named Alumnus of the Year in 1990.

To notify Creighton Prep of the passing of a Prep community member, please contact Terri Haller at 402.548.3845 or thall@prep.creighton.edu

Mary Bender Dunn,
daughter of Robert Bender ’36 (deceased),
sister of Robert Bender ’61 (deceased)

Stephen M. Kubry,
senior of change and President Hobey ’95 (deceased)

William Momen,
senior of Husky and James Neuman Jr. ’75

Mary Bender Dunn,
sister of Robert Bender ’61 (deceased)

William Momen,
senior of Husky and James Neuman Jr. ’75

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SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, APRIL 21 FOR BOWTIE BASH —
TIED TOGETHER IN FAITH, SCHOLARSHIP,
LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

BASH plays a very important role in Prep's ongoing commitment to deliver educational excellence to over 1,000 young men. The monies raised during BASH are a key component in our ability to keep tuition affordable for everyone, as well as to provide more than $2 million in financial assistance annually to approximately 45 percent of our students.

BASH is a big undertaking, but with the support of our Prep community members, we come together each year to create a successful event … and have a little fun along the way! If you are interested in VOLUNTEERING in any capacity, donating an AUCTION ITEM, advertising in our CATALOG and/or being a PREMIER SPONSOR, please contact Amy Knight at 402.548.3858 or aknig@prep.creighton.edu.